

Speak up & be heard

Food & Drug Administration (FDA) recently issued the 3rd major phase of its program to revise food labeling practices. Goal of this program is to improve the nutritional & other information offered to consumers by food labels. Included in these materials are 11 final regulations, 3 clarifications of present regulations & 5 proposals on which FDA request comments. Several of the final regulations were proposed in January when FDA introduced this food labeling program [CONSUMER NEWS: Feb. 1]. Other highlights of this phase of the program are below.

Air travel for the handicapped

Beginning Sept. 27, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will hold hearings to determine the types of regulations needed to assist handicapped passengers on planes. FAA will also accept written comments until Oct. 30.

Presently, each airline has its own regulations about handicapped persons. Some refuse to take a handicapped person aboard unless he is accompanied by an attendant. The purpose of the hearings is to obtain recommendations for procedures that all airlines would have to follow for carrying a maximum number of handicapped persons consistent with the principles of safety. From a practical standpoint, FAA is interested in solving the problem of how to deal with emergency situations. Present regulations require that a mixture of passengers (young, old, male & female) must be evacuated from a plane in no more than 90 seconds.

FAA is particularly interested in receiving comments on the following concerns:

- How disabled or limited may a person be in order to be allowed on the plane?
- Where is the best place for him to sit?
- How many handicapped persons should be allowed on any given plane without a special attendant?
- Should the handicapped person be issued a card that states his ability to perform certain physical tasks without assistance? If so, who should issue it?
- Would it be dangerous if a handicapped person's appliance (such as leg braces) came into contact with fiber emergency evacuation chutes?
- How could large groups of handicapped persons be evacuated safely?
- Should the 90 second evacuation requirement be adjusted upward? How much?
- Could special equipment be made available to handle evacuation of handicapped persons in an emergency?
- How would a handicapped person feel if he were the last person being evacuated in an emergency?

Following is a schedule of hearing dates & places where consumers may present oral or written statements. They must notify FAA regarding date & place of meeting they wish to attend & indicate amount of time they plan to spend on their oral statements. All hearings start at 9 a.m.

Sept. 27—Miami Springs Villas, 500 Deer Run, Miami Springs, FL 33166; phone: 305-871-6000 (Florida Room extension).

Oct. 2—Mayo Civic Auditorium, P.O. 895, 30 SE 2nd Ave., Rochester, MN 55901; phone: 509-288-8475.

Oct. 4—JFK Federal Building, Government Center, New Cambridge St., Boston, MA 02203; phone: 617-223-2906 (Room 2003A extension).

Oct. 10—Concord Motor Inn, 6565 Mannheim Rd., Rosemont, IL 60018; phone: 312-827-6121.

Oct. 16—Rochelles Motel & Restaurant, 3333 Lakewood Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90808; phone: 912-421-9494.

Oct. 18—Federal Aviation Administration, Auditorium (3rd Floor), 800 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20591; phone: 202-426-8357.

Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 29, page 23352. Send comments to Office of General Counsel, AGC-24, FAA1, Transportation Dept., Washington, DC 20591; mark envelope: "Attention: Presiding Officer, Public Hearing on ANPRM 73-16."

Dairy products

Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has extended until December 1974 the effective date for nutritional labeling to appear on dairy products shipped in interstate commerce.

FDA's original deadline of December 1973 was extended at the request of 3 milk associations. The associations said they needed more time to complete studies for additional data on which to base nutritional labeling for the following foods: milk, lowfat milk, skim milk, nonfat dry milk, cottage cheese, lowfat cottage cheese & dry curd cottage cheese.

Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 24, page 22791.

French dressing

Oct. 23 is deadline for comments on Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) proposal to permit use of artificial coloring in "french dressing" & to require that all ingredients used in the food be declared on the label.

Manufacturers of french dressing usually use paprika as a coloring rather than as a seasoning although paprika is listed as a seasoning in the present standards. Since the quality & availability of paprika fluctuate, FDA believes that safe & suitable artificial colorings should be used to achieve the desired color.

At present, mandatory ingredients of french dressing (vegetable oil & an acid) do not have to be listed on the label. However, since manufacturers have the option of choosing from more than one kind of oil & acid, FDA's proposal would require labels to state all ingredients used in french dressing.

It should be noted that there are many kinds of salad dressings available in stores that are not within FDA's definition of "french dressing." These other dressings are not covered by the proposal.

Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 21, page 22490. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Health, Education & Welfare Dept., 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

Spray adhesives

In 2 separate rulings, Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has banned the sale of 13 spray adhesives for household use. CPSC has urged consumers to discontinue use of the banned products.

CPSC took this action, under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act, after reviewing research on Foil Art Spray Adhesive & Scotch Brand Spra-Ment Adhesive (both made by the 3-M Co.) & Krylon Spray Adhesive (made by the Borden Co.). Research indicated these products were possibly involved in genetic damage to children born to users of the sprays. A fourth product, 3M Brand Spray Adhesive 77, was not mentioned in the research, but, because it has the same formulation as Scotch Brand Spra-Ment Adhesive, CPSC banned the "77" brand along with the 3 products in the research report. CPSC later added the following to the list of banned spray adhesives:

- Marshall's Photo-Mount Spray Adhesive—Borden;
- Sears Multi-Purpose Spray Adhesive—3-M;
- Scotch Brand Multipurpose Spray Adhesive—3-M;
- Scotch-Grip Brand Floral Adhesive 77—3-M;
- 3M Brand Shipping Mate Palletizing Adhesive—3-M;
- 3M Brand Spray Trim Adhesive—3-M;
- Tuff-Bond Spray-Hesive—3-M;
- Bear Brand Spray Trim Adhesive—3-M;
- Tri Chem Spray Mist Adhesive—3-M.

These products are used mostly in arts & crafts hobbies & photography.

(Note: Since the *Federal Register* items were published, CPSC has removed from the banned list the 15-oz. container of Tri Chem Spray Mist Adhesive, made by 3-M. The formulation of the 15-oz. product is not the same as the 11-oz. size, which continues to be banned.) Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 22, page 22569; & Aug. 29, page 23355.

Multipurpose vehicles

Oct. 15 is deadline for comments on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) proposal to change the definition of multipurpose passenger vehicles (MPVs) to eliminate reference to off-road operation features.

At present, an MPV is defined as "a motor vehicle with motive power, except a trailer, designed to carry 10 per-

sons or less, which is constructed either on a truck chassis or with special features for occasional off-road operation."

The proposed new definition would describe it as "a motor vehicle with motive power, designed to carry 10 persons or less, that is constructed on a truck chassis."

NHTSA considers the definition change necessary in order to assure that all vehicles are safe to drive on the highways.

Most MPVs (such as Jeep & Jeep-type vehicles, passenger vans, motor homes & chassis-mount campers) are put on truck chassis. Recently, however, Volkswagen of America Inc. introduced a vehicle called "The Thing" into this country. The Thing has off-road operation features, such as ground clearance, high approach & departure angles & low transmission ratios; therefore, it has qualified as an MPV even though it does not conform to many safety standards for cars. The Thing has a car body.

NHTSA proposes that the effective date of this standard be Sept. 1, 1974, to allow Volkswagen & others time to make the necessary design changes.

Details—*Federal Register*: Sept. 4, page 23804. Send comments to Docket Section, National Highway Safety Administration, Washington DC 20591; refer to Docket No. 73-21, Notice 1.

Older Americans

Oct. 4 is deadline for comments on Health, Education & Welfare Dept.'s proposal to help states & communities develop coordinated programs & services for older persons, particularly in areas where there are large concentrations of low income & minority senior citizens.

The primary goals of the program, if adopted, are to (1) Secure & maintain maximum independence & dignity in a home environment for older persons capable of self-care; and (2) Remove individual & social barriers to economic & personal independence for older persons."

Some of the services for individuals for which funds would be provided are transportation, telephone & personal visiting, legal assistance, counseling & recreation. HEW seeks suggestions from consumers on how to provide & coordinate services to older Americans.

Details—*Federal Register*: Sept. 4, page 23912. Send comments to Commissioner on Aging, Health, Education & Welfare Dept., Washington, DC 20201.

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